MAY. 29. 1822

My dear Maria ——— Rome 1822

I have been waiting most anxiously for a letter from you or from Jem & that a Month has gone by. and you may get the news that I have been ill from some short passed and an exaggerated account. But I thank God I write to you again in good Health — I will tell you the particulars of all this. You must know in the first place we have few inducements to take exercise here in Rome. We go on day after in our Study's and all the exercise we get is going to Dinner — about ½ a mile — Now from this arises dis-ordered stomachs & constipated bowels — I had gone on in this state some time — without feeling particularly ill — but a certain heaviness hanging on me — which I ought to have known it was requisite to take Physic for. — Perhaps you dont know that this Climate is not like England in assisting the digestion — it is so delicate that the greatest care is requisite to [1st] on in health — In England we eat and drink any thing — in any quantity. — but here the effect would be fevers or death. — the reason is this — Your climate is bracing and clear. — but this is bright but with a little air. — when the East wind blows every one is much effected with languor and low spirits. — Well. I was — Not to my House — You see I am [2d] so upper state. — My Stomach had been going on in this bad state some time — on the 28th April I had been dining with a friend down in the day at 5 o'clock I the hirer — and had eaten rather plentifully of a Veal fricasee (like me without thinking of it) and rising soon after dinner I was walking out for a little air — when a sudden effect came before my eyes like

the effect of looking at the Sun ~~was~~ at first I did imagine
it was the sun — but it increased and I found myself
sinking — with a violent swimming in the head — and very
soon I fell Down insensible — There were many Italians
near who behaved very kindly to me — and in few
minutes two of my English Friends passed and found me
in this state — they took me into the study of a French
Painter and I recovered sufficiently to be taken home —
Next the shaking of the Coach effected me again — and I
was nearly insensible when I arrived home — Doctor Clark
came immediately as did also many of my friends — and
when they put me to bed I was quite recovered and in
good spirits — The Doctor thought it to arise entirely
from my Stomach — he said it was one effect of indigestion
— it might be a fever — he ordered me to keep very quiet
— not to speak and to keep in bed — giving me a tremendous
dose of Physic — In the Morning I was much better
it was as he said — my Stomach was full ~~of~~ and the
New Cheese had had this effect upon it — I remained in
bed 6 days — living almost without food — and at the
end of that time I was tolerably right again — and
now I am going on as well again — so that you will see
my dear Maria that it has been only a temporary
thing — And which has had a good effect — of making
me take more care of myself — it may have prevented
a fever — I can assure it has taught me and I am most
forcibly — "There is Providence that shapes our ends — rough
hew them how we will" — I have been much relieved of
course but that is nothing — they sent to me to Turin for a Portuguese

It will be most gratifying to you all to know the great kindness that has been shown to me during the whole time I shall never forget it. from the first moment that I was taken ill some one or two of my friends remained with me — they sit up with me every night with the most brotherly attention — and remain with me all day — I believe I have told you what a set of good fellows there are here — there are about 10 of us all hand in hand and heart in heart — We are Painters — Sculptors & Architects and medical help we are to each other is very great — at least I can speak for myself — not only then but when we meet together we spend such delightful hours — we can say any thing to each other without offence — we have each others advice in our respective pursuits — and the friendship among the English Artists in Rome is as thing talked of here by all. —

I have had some kind offers to drive out when I was recovering — from Lady Westmorland and Mrs Lyon — one or the other came for me every day — the latter Lady is a most amiable woman — whose Mother was the Thrale Piozzi the friend of Dr Johnson — So that after all you will plainly see my dear Maria — that so many kind persons showed me such respect — loosing their time and comfort to serve me — and the consensus was I had best ask my dear Love my Father my Mother & Brothers — if they found me ill — or even unhappy — would be made at Rome also, on my account — Why as Sir was so much interested to get better — which most thank God

I have — and since I find so much to make me happy
in this World — in the beautiful appearances of Nature
in my noble profession which occupies me in the ad-
miration of them — but above these since I find so
much love and friendship in the world — friends where
ever I go — always with open heart to receive me — I will
not shorten one day of my life by imprudence — which
common sense teaches me to shun — since I have gained
so much love & esteem — I will strive by to deserve it. —
— There now — this is the full true — & particular account —
I am going away to Florence in 3 Weeks — I have not heard from Mr Brown
but expect him here — I have had many offers to go in Feather gra
— I have received many presents of Books — a Lady has given a beautiful
set of Hastings — My picture of Alexander is about half done I ha
studied most deeply — now I am going on again — It will make a great figure
— Now farewell my dear Maria — I pray all of you to accept my dear lo
I am duly compensated for by your society by the happiness and peace I fi
here — had I not found it — long ago I must have been back to you and

Miss Maria Severn
4 Mason Court — Shoreditch
London
England
from Rome — May 27th —

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1821

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